

Message Text

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NEA/PAB DARCHARD

IO/EX/IR KCARROLL

USDA DHATHAWAY (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FODAG

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: AORG, WFC, UN

SUBJECT: WFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REF: STATE 89736

1. ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT CERTAIN THAT IT WILL PERSUADE THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT TO WITHDRAW THE CANDIDACY OF SALAHUDDIN AHMED FOR THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION, WE WANT THE GOB TO KNOW; (A) WE FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT OUR CANDIDATE MAURICE WILLIAMS, FOR REASONS OUTLINED REFTTEL, (B) IF WILLIAMS IS SELECTED, WE BELIEVE A DEVELOPING COUNTRY NATIONAL SHOULD REPLACE THE INCUMBENT DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (WALTERS) AND (C) WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT AHMED FOR THE DEPUTY POSITION. (NOTE: THE DEPUTY AND OTHER WFC STAFF MEMBERS ARE APPOINTED)
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THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. WILLIAMS HAS TOLD US AHMED WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE IN THAT POST.)

2. BOTH SYG WALDHEIM AND WFC PRESIDENT TANCO HAVE STATED A CLEAR PREFERENCE FOR WILLIAMS. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO FIND A SOLUTION WHICH WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO AS MANY OF THE WFC MEMBERS AS POSSIBLE.

3. BEFORE AND AFTER TALKING TO THE SYG, TANCO URGED THE DEPARTMENT AND USDA TO FIND A WAY TO INFORM THE GOB THAT WE THINK THE WFC SECOND POSITION SHOULD BE FILLED BY A

DEVELOPING COUNTRY NATIONAL AND WOULD SUPPORT AHMED FOR THE JOB. ALTHOUGH TANCO WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT THE PROPOSAL WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE, HE SAID OUR APPROACH TO BANGLADESH WOULD ENABLE HIM TO NEGOTIATE FURTHER WITH THE G-77 AND GOB IN BEHALF OF WILLIAMS. WE RECOGNIZE THE VALIDITY OF THIS . WE ALSO BELIEVE IT WOULD PUT THE SYG AND TANCO IN A BETTER POSITION IF THEY EVENTUALLY HAVE TO BITE THE BULLET AND CHOOSE BETWEEN WILLIAMS AND AHMED.

4. WE, THEREFORE HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE SEVERAL RELATED ACTIONS. FIRST WE HAVE ASKED MINISTER KABIR OF THE BANGLADESH EMBASSY TO CALL ON IO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROBERT BARRY ON THURSDAY, JUNE 1 AT 3:00 P.M. BARRY WILL MAKE THE THREE POINTS LISTED IN PARA ONE TO KABIR. HE WILL ALSO USE COURTESY POINTS CONTAINED PARA 3 STATE 81535.

5. SECONDLY, (AGAIN RESPONDING TO TANCO) WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE EMBASSY WOULD DELIVER A MESSAGE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINE TO PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR FOR AGRICULTURE AZIZUL HUQ, FROM USDA ASSISTANT SECRETARY DALE HATHAWAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHO IS PERSONAL FRIEND OF HUQ. QUOTE I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT FOR MAURICE WILLIAMS AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. WE WILL STRONGLY SUPPORT MR. AHMED FOR DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IF MR. WILLIAMS IS CHOSEN. GIVEN IMPENDING DEPARTURE OF MR. WALTERS THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THERE WILL BE NO U.S. REPRESENTATIVE ON WFC SECRETARIAT WHICH APPEARS INCONSISTENT WITH U.S. MAJOR POSITION IN WORLD FOOD ISSUES AND RAISES SERIOUS QUESTIONS OF GEOGRAPHICAL BALANCE IN WFC SECRETARIAT. WITH BEST WISHES END QUOTE.

6. THIRDLY, AND UNLESS EMBASSY SEES SUCH ACTION AS OVERKILL, WE WOULD LIKE EMBASSY TO ALSO INFORM MFA AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF THE POINTS IN PARA ONE.

CHRISTOPHER

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